

# Savannah USO center opens Military Reception Center new airport reception center

#### USO celebrates 64th anniversary of service to the American serviceman

Catherine Caruso Frontline Staff

Local volunteers celebrated the USO's 64th anniversary by opening a renovated reception station at

Savannah International Airport.

For years, weary Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines used



Betty Haldeman and Bob Miller, USO volunteers, cut Bush said. cake to celebrate the opening of the renovated center.

counter for doughnuts and coffee between flights.

The new station may not have all the comforts of the real thing, but it is a place they can call home, at least for a few hours.

"The old one? It was needing some work. The company that did the work, they did a great job, but a lot of people had been through there," Rule Joyner, owner of 24E Home Furnishings in Savannah, Ga., said. He donated new furnishings for the refurbished reception

In coming weeks, more local companies and organizations will donate labor and materials to refit the old ticket counter into an expanded seating area. When finished, the center will have doubled in size, Mitchell Bush, president, USO Savannah Chapter said.

"It's for all the services, but, the impetus for this was the Marines,"

In recent years, more and more "new boots," recently graduated

to belly up along a vacant ticket from basic training at Paris Island, S.C., have been passing through the

This has contributed to a strong USO presence in Savannah also aided by two 3rd Infantry Division deployments and a large base of military retirees.

These number of troops passing through the airport made it a logical way to support all of the military services, Bush said.

The expanded facility will have computers, televisions, telephones and refreshments available for service members and their families so they can relax, call home, and rest comfortably between flights.

The center will be staffed seven days a week by volunteers.

Savannah resident Betty Batta is one such volunteer. She began working with the USO during the 3rd Infantry Division's redeployment to Iraq in mid-2003.

"I can't go to war. But this was one very, very small way I can say 'thank you' to the troops that are over there," Batta said.



Photos by Steve Hart

Jim Mercer (second from right), vice president, YMCA of Coastal Georgia . helps hold a check for \$5,000 donated to the Savannah USO for continued improvements of the military reception center. Also attending were (left to right) Ruel Joyner, Liz Herous, Mitchell Bush, Jim Chapman and Trip Tollison (far right).

# Home schooling workshop provides families guidance

Spc. Robert Adams Frontline Staff

A home school information and open discussion workshop and dinner was held for community families at the Fort Stewart Youth Center Feb. 9.

The home schooling workshop was for both parents who are currently home schooling their children and for those who are considering it as an option rather than sending their children to public or private schools.

After dinner and introductions, the group went to the youth center computer lab to learn about the many educational programs, classes and benefits available.

"What we are trying to do is let families know that we have some services that may help them supplement their teaching for their children and we want them to be aware of the many programs that child and youth services offers," said David Smith, school liaison offi-

The free computer lab recently received upgraded hardware and softwar which includes restricted Internet access, middle school through high school educational programs, and a staff to help set up class schedules and lesson plans.

"I can put a child on any subject-tutoring program, where they can study, take quizzes, and take exams and this will give them an advantage in school," said Marjorie Battle, youth center computer homework

After the computer lab, parents shared advice, what challenges they have faced, and success stories that worked for them and why they believe home schooling is the best option for their children.

Many attendees are currently home schooling their children and were able to answer questions from families trying to gather information.

Some advice from Marianne Detoito was to not be scared, trust in yourself, and give it a year. She added, "You will also develop a much better relationship with your children."

One goal that Smith wanted to gain by the end of the workshop was for parents to formally or informally start some sort of home school association.

With the current Iraq deployment, there are a lot of parents trying home school by themselves.

David Smith. Fort Stewart school liaison officer. gives home school information to attendees of a workshop at the Stewart Youth Center.

In this association, parents can share information, resources, and network with each other.

If a parent is strong in a subject or activity, they could work together with other families and exchange

Smith said, "By networking and making them aware that there are other people doing this, it will help them in a couple ways: first as a resource to share some of their successes and second for friendship so they can get together and take their minds off the deployment."



Lt. Taysha Deaton

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Edwards, from Carencro, La., 1088th Engineer Battalion, cruises through the "parade" on his Polaris. Edwards, not to be outdone by the larger military vehicles, decorated his own mode of transportation for the Mardi Gras celebration.

### Guardsmen kick Off Mardi Gras celebration in Baghdad

Spc. Erin Robicheaux 256th Bde. Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad — Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team generally hear the phrase, "Throw me something, Mister!" from Iraqi kids in the streets of Baghdad, but on Sunday, Feb. 7, they heard it in the true Mardi Gras sense in which it was intended.

Although the Louisiana Brigade is thousands of miles from the Mardi Gras celebration, an ocean could not separate the enthusiasm that the Soldiers have for the holiday.

"Mardi Gras" literally means "Fat Tuesday," and the holiday is obviously celebrated on that day of the week. But since the majority of the Soldiers are off on Sundays, the leadership decided that it would be best to celebrate it on

The history of Mardi Gras, surprisingly enough, is a Catholic tradition. It begins 12 days after Christmas, on January 6th. That day is called "12th Night," or "King's Day" and it celebrates the visit of the three wise men bearing gifts to the Baby Jesus. In a related Mardi Gras c. stom.

a dessert, called a "king's cake" is made in a circular pattern to signify the roundabout route that the three kings took to get to the Christ Child.

This was to confuse King Herod, who wanted to kill the baby. In ancient tradition, a small coin or bean was placed in the center of the cake and whoever found it was said to have good fortune throughout the next

In Louisiana, however, bakers insert a plastic baby instead, to symbolize the Baby Jesus. The recipient is obligated to host the next cake party.

The meaning of the name "Fat Tuesday" refers to the day before the Lenten Season begins, or the day before Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 days and nights prior to Easter when Catholics fast to cleanse their bodies and souls to prepare for the day that Jesus will rise into Heaven the crucifixion. after Traditionally on Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, a fatted calf was slaughtered and Catholics feasted on meat, wine, and good times. The colors of the celebration also fall in line

with the tradition — purple

is for justice, green is for

faith and gold is for power

The date for Mardi Gras can fall in anywhere between February 3. to March 9., depending on the Lunar calendar. Catholics use this calendar to determine the date of Easter and Fat Tuesday is always 47 days prior.

The Tiger Brigade brought the tradition and craziness to the streets of their camp in Baghdad stunning spectators from other units who took to it like true first-timers.

Throughout Camp Liberty, Soldiers emerged from their offices and rooms to see what the chaos was all about. What they saw were military vehicles of every shape and size transformed into Mardi Gras floats.

Thanks to many krewes, i.e., the crew of the each "float" in the parade), from Louisiana and the Family Readiness Groups, who donated beads, masks, and festive decorations, the parade was a huge success.

Spc. Chris Golden, from Abbeville, La., Headquarters Co. 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, said that Mardi Gras in Baghdad was a nice touch, even though the supplies and spectators were

limited. See Mardi Gras -

# Volunteer Spotlight





elly M. Nelson, a native of Dalton, Ga., is a Red Cross volunteer at Winn Army Community Hospital. She volunteers in the Radiology department.

"I volunteer to get experience as a medical assistant and to keep myself busy during my husbands deployment," Nelson said.

In her free time, she enjoys sewing, gardening and putting a smile on people's faces. She is married to Russell Nelson.

If you would like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or send an email to *Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil.* Kelly M. Nelson, a native of Dalton, Ga., is a Red Cross volunteer at Winn Army.

### MWR promotes fitness awareness

Sqt. James Strine 4th Bde. Public Affairs

In an effort to promote fitness awareness throughout the Fort Stewart community, post's Morale Welfare and Recreation office put on "Lighten Up, Tighten Up," a kind of interactive display highlighting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Despite the chilly Saturday morning, local Soldiers and family members turned out for the event, starting their morning with a one-mile fun run/walk at the Quick Track on post.

"This was an activity that MWR and the Department of the Army came up with to help families and Soldiers be more fit," said Directorate of Community Activities Services Chief Larry Cutchens. "And we wanted to have a day of activities that to show the public that they can lead healthy lives and be more healthy."

As the morning warmed up, event goers had the opportunity to try different workout routines, learn about healthy alternative diets and test their flexibility all with guidance from experts hailing from post and community initiatives.

In addition to the fitness and

health attractions, MWR took care of the kids too, with air bouncers and slides, rides and even an appearance from the Army Recruiting Command's NASCAR racecar.

"We had a good turnout this morning," Cutchens said, "We started off at 9 a.m. this morning with a one-mile walk. Then we had activities all day such as pilates and kickboxing. These were for people who normally have not participated in these events, so we gave them a demonstration today."

"We designed the program for people who are not in a structured exercise program," he added.

MWR offers programs like kickboxing and pilates throughout the week at several of the gyms on post. In hopes that Saturday's event would bolster turnouts for such exercise programs, MWR-sponsored fitness experts explained that a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise could be fun and beneficial at the same time.

Cutchens said that of the 50 people who participated in the morning run/walk, only one actually ran on a regular basis. He said in light of this fact, hopefully this means people



Nathaniel Robinson, personal trainer, MWR, administers a flexibility test for some of Saturday's participants.

who are not regular fitness program participants will begin to show up at regular events.

Only future participation in MWR health and fitness programs will tell if the "Lighten Up Tighten, Up Day" pays off, until then, interested Soldiers and family members can access www.stewartmwr.com for calendars of events, phone numbers and locations of gyms and on-post MWR facilities.



Runners line up on a brisk Saturday morning for a one-mile run/walk.



Andy Arrington, aquatics director, MWR, has his blood pressure checked.

### Officers' Wives' Club auction proceeds benefits charities

Sarah Tate Gannaway Officers Spouses' Club

Even though the Division has deployed, there are still needs here at home. The Ft. Stewart Officers Spouses' Club will be auctioning themed baskets on Feb. 18., at Club Stewart. The proceeds will benefit local charities and the Ft. Stewart scholarship fund. The OSC's

event. This year, in addition to the basket auction, there will also be wine tasting. But the centerpiece of the evening will be the live auction of baskets donated by private organizations from the Ft. Stewart community as well as units from within the

basket auction is an annual

Division. This year's guest which charities will benefit auctioneers will be Matt and and the amount they will Senea from the Z-102 Morning Show.

purchase will be unique. Expect to see approximately 30 themed baskets varying from "Margaritaville" to "Vacations with the Kids." Viewing begins at 5:30 p.m. and the silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m. The live auction portion starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Applications for the Ft. Stewart scholarship fund are available now and are due by Mar. 15. Also, any local charity can request a donation from the Ft. Stewart OSC.

Requests are reviewed by the welfare committee and then a decision is made

receive. The more monies OSC raises, the more the Each basket available for welfare committee can allocate to different charities who have applied.

> We encourage the members of our local community to come out for a fun evening of wine tasting and get into the spirit of giving a little back to a community that so willingly supports us.

> Anyone interested attending this exciting evening is encouraged to contact their Battalion OSC representative to purchase advanced tickets.

Advanced sale tickets are \$3 and \$5 at the door are.

The event is open to the



MWR fitness experts lead event attendees through various workout routines.

Mardi Gras - from Page 1B

"With the amount of shortcomings we had, as far as equipment and planning, we were still able to pull off a nice presentation."

He also said that it felt good to bring a taste of the Louisiana tradition to the rest of the camp.

"Everyone enjoys a good party," he said, "and I think that we gave everyone around us a feeling of togetherness and were able to include many people in the event." He said that it showed the open personality of Louisiana.

Along the parade route, the riders threw beads, candy, and cups to anyone within range.

Civilian employees passing by in cars, fellow Soldiers from other units returning from missions, and anyone peeking out of their front doors were

greeted with a rain shower of Mardi Gras trinkets. Everyone got into the celebration as the spectators lined the streets and rooftops to catch the traditional items.

Homer Stelly, from Delcambre, La., Command Sgt. Maj., 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, set up his sound system on his battalion's float and blared zydeco music for the parade.

"The music makes everything," he said, "cajun music and zydeco music are part of Louisiana culture and we just couldn't have a Mardi Gras parade without it."

A favorite Louisiana phrase is "Laissez les bon temps roulez!" which means "Let the good times

On Sunday, Feb. 7, 2005, thousands of miles from home in the streets of Baghdad, Louisiana Soldiers did just that.



### Savannah Tech. offers free career seminars

Seminars to be hosted at new Fort Stewart Army Education Center

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Savannah Technical College Liberty Campus is going to host several free seminars at the new Army Education Center located at Fort Stewart.

These seminars will focus on careers in Information Technology. Savannah Technical College will also give details on its new accelerated Microsoft certification programs.

These programs can prepare you anywhere from an entry-level career in Information

Technology to a top-level network engineer position in industry. In addition, the seminars will give informa-

tion on financial aid, online classes, and more.

The seminars will take place on Feb. 10,10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. and on Feb. 15 at 5

p.m. only. The seminars are free and open to the pub-

For more information, call 767-5336.



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, piled into the backs of vehicles to catch beads and film the Mardi Gras festivities in Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

Senior catcher ...

## Army player earns preseason honor

www.goArmysports.com

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Prior to this season, Army's baseball team never had a player selected as a preseason All-American.

Thanks to last spring's record-setting campaign and the return of some key players from that squad, two Black Knights have been chosen to national preseason America squads this winter.

Sophomore left-hander Nick Hill broke new ground earlier this winter when he became the first Army player to be named to the Louisville Slugger Preseason All-American team by Collegiate Baseball.

Hill was named to the third team squad after earning third team All-America laurels from Collegiate Baseball last spring.

Senior catcher Schuyler Williamson recently joined Hill on Army's preseason All-America list when he was selected to the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Preseason 2005 All-America Third Team, the first Black Knight so honored by the NCBWA.

Last year's Patriot League "Co-Player of the Year," the conference's Baseball Scholar-Athlete of the Year and a third team Academic All-America choice, Williamson batted .357 with 12 doubles, four triples, 12 home runs, 52 runs scored and 48 runs batted in. He tied or shattered nine school and Patriot League records en route to establishing himself as one of the nation's top backstops.

Army closed its record-setting season at 37-15, dropping hardfought decisions to eventual regional champion LSU and College of Charleston at the Baton Rouge Regional, the second NCAA appearance in school history and the second in five years.

The Black Knights return 18 letterwinners, six positional starters and nine of their top 11 pitchers, including three of four weekend starters, from that squad.

Williamson will serve as one of Army's team co-captains for the second consecutive season.

The Black Knights will open their 2005 campaign with a three-game series against College of Charleston Feb. 18-20 in Charleston, S.C.

# Lehigh holds off Army, 69-64

capped his team-high 20-point performance by hitting two free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining as visiting Lehigh held off a furious Army rally to preserve a 69-64 Mountain Hawk victory Friday night at West

Behind the strong second-half play of Knight and center Jason Mgebroff, Lehigh (13-10 overall, 7-3 Patriot League) outscored Army (3-19, 1-9 PL) 19-6 over a seven-minute span to build a 54-39 lead with 7:50 to play. Knight and Mgebroff, who finished with 14 points, tallied six points each during that surge while Nick Monserez added five points, including the bucket that

Just over three minutes later, Mitch Gilfillan and Knight hit three-point buckets on successive possessions, each with the shot clock winding down. Knight's trey pushed Lehigh's advantage to 12 points, 60-

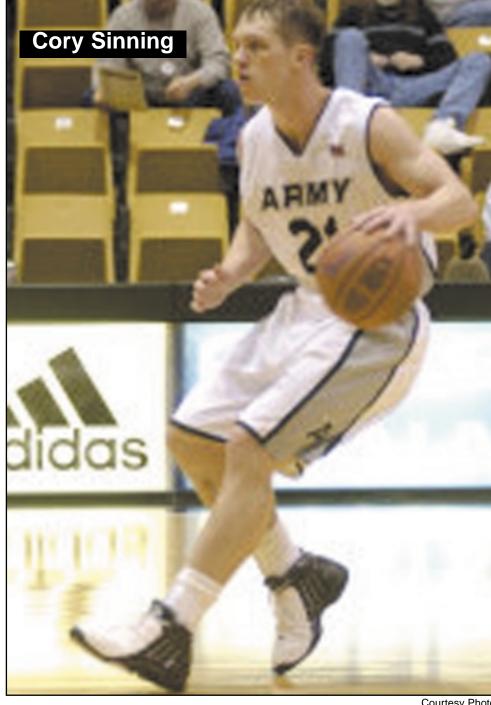
"I have to commend Lehigh," Army head coach Jim Crews said following his team's fifth consecutive defeat. "They hit some big shots at key times in the second half. Those two threes really hurt us."

However, the pesky Black Knights would not go away, staging a rally that brought the home team to within three points, 67-64, following Cory Sinning's driving layup with three seconds remaining. Sinning, who finished with a career-high 20 points, scored seven points during Army's 14-7 run following Knight's three-pointer.

After Sinning's final bucket, Army fouled Knight on the ensuing inbounds play and he sank both ends of the two-shot foul for the final margin of victory.

"We didn't play badly at all," Crews added. "I really feel bad for these guys. They've invested a lot (of time and energy). We are getting better, but they just are getting any rewards. We were coming off a tough loss last Sunday at Navy, but our guys came out Tuesday (following an off day on Monday) full blast, and that's a credit to

"Cory Sinning continues to get better and better. He is strong, and he knows how to use



his body. He's aggressive and he's finding ways to score. Tonight I thought he gave us a tremendous game."

In addition to scoring 20 points, Sinning played a ll 40 minutes, grabbed four rebounds, blocked one shot and recorded a steal. He was 8 of 12 from the floor en route to becoming the third different Black Knight to notch a 20-point game this winter.

Lehigh appeared in control down the stretch, clinging to a 69-59 cushion after a pair of Jose Olivero free throws with 28 seconds left. But, Army's Steve Stoll hit a threepointer and Bryan White committed a turnover on the inbounds pass.

See Basketball

### MWR plans upgrades for facility, programs

Nancy Gould Frontline Staff

Soldiers will return from Iraq to an "almost new" Newman Fitness Center, according to Perry Yawn, sports director, Newman, Caro and Jordan fitness centers.

Newman's much-needed facelift began early in January and will take several months to complete — by September, at the earliest. Changes include refinished flooring for the gym and racquetball courts, new modular carpet in previously carpeted areas, new lighting fixtures throughout the gallery, as well as an entirely new electrical system. The whole facility gets a fresh coat of paint, and the men and women's locker/toilet/shower areas get new plumbing, and new airconditioning and heating sys-

**Gyms** 

Jordan and Caro gyms are open seven days a week during Newman's renovation. They are fully equipped with cardio, free-weight, and selectorized equipment and saunas. Their

• Jordan - Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon to 9 p.m.

• Caro - Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon to 9 p.m.

Aerobics classes, previously held at Newman, are now at Jordan Fitness Center, Monday through Friday, 7:30 — 8:30 a.m.; 9:30 — 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 — 5:30 p.m.

#### **Bowling Center**

The snack bar at Marne Lanes Bowling Center will complete on-going renovations in February, according to MWR Assistant Business Chief, Bob Tunkel. Since



The bowling center will be closed temporarily for renovations which will include snack areas.

December, when renovations began, it has operated with a limited menu. When it reopens as the "Strike Zone," it will feature new equipment and a new menu, including "fresh, made from scratch pizza." The entire bowling center closes for renovation from May to August 2005. Changes include a renovated concourse area from the bowling lanes back, a reconfigured bowler's area, new seating, carpeting and paint, and new wall coverings. The game

room will be reconfigured into a more open, modern game area. Restrooms and office areas are also scheduled for overhauls, along with the facility's ceiling.

Stewart Lanes will open seven-days a week during the Marne Lane renovations. Specific hours will be announced when Marne Lanes renovations begin.

**Family Readiness Center** The Family See MWR



#### Dragster 'The Sarge' qualifies for Carquest Winternationals 4.45-second range," he

**Chris Dirato** 

Army News Service

POMONA, Calif., Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, the driver of the U.S. Army Top Fuel dragster, picked up right where he left off in 2004 by taking the provisional number one qualifying position for Sunday's running of the CARQUEST Auto Parts Winternationals here at Pomona Race-

way.

The driver of the U.S. Army Top Fuel dragster laid down a 4.487-second pass at 321.04 mph to take the top spot heading into Friday's single qualifying session.

"It was a good way to start, that's for sure,"

said the 2004 NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world champion. "We felt like we could come out here

and perform well given

our testing in Phoenix a

couple of weeks ago."

"Of course, this is only one run of many. We have to come back and do it again tomorrow and Saturday," Schumaker said

he also said that, if conditions are right, quicker times are ahead for the U.S. Army

"We actually put a cylinder out around 800 feet in the run today, so we probably could have been in the added. "The track is pretty good, so we'll see what happens." The Chicago native

second Winternationals title after breaking through with a win in last year's edition. "The key thing is to

is looking to claim his

start the season in a solid way," he said.

"Certainly, another win here at Pomona would be terrific," he

The Army's top dragster comes back for the 2005 season with an invitation to compete at the Carquest Winternationals at Pamona Speedway.

#### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

# Our sleep plan ... A sign of spirituality?

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James White 3rd Inf. Div. Chaplain

I tried to work on my computer a few days ago with no results. I tried everything that I could to get it to send and receive e-mail.

Folks from the G-6 shop also tried to work their magic. No results.

Before calling in for spiritual back-up and performing an exorcism there was one thing left to try, something a young Soldier by the name of Spc. Palmatier once taught me. Completely turn off the computer and re-boot. Guess what? It worked and shortly thereafter e-mail messages were passing back and forth again.

So, what is the lesson? Sometimes you have to turn things completely off and give them a rest in order to get them working properly again.

We've all been trained on how the brain begins to lose efficiency without proper rest and how our immune system begins to break down, causing sickness. When we "turn it off" for a while, the brain and body "re-boot" with greater efficiency.

However, more than just getting enough rest, our sleep plan can be part of who we are spiritually. Getting enough rest is God's idea.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God ... for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11)

God, the creator of heaven and earth, did not need the rest. Rather, it was leadership by example. However, God made it more than merely a day of rest. The idea was that we rest and refocus our horizontal and vertical relationships.

The one who created us knew that we could not sus-

tain continuous operations without rest. We need the time to recover and spiritually re-boot.

When you re-boot a computer, all of the programming gets organized again in a way that allows the computer to perform at its best.

Part of our re-booting process is getting our spiritual life in order.

This involves taking care of our relationships with God, our family, and those around us.

Did you also know that when we obey the guidance from above we signify our loyalty and submission to divine authority?

"You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy." (Exodus 31:13)

The expectation is that we will take time to rest, worship, and get our priorities in order.

As the year progresses we will surely find ourselves at times with long hours and sleepless nights. Our sleep plan will adjust accordingly.

King David and his mighty fighting men surely did not stop the battle in order to keep the Sabbath day.

One of the most controversial passages in scripture is when he and his men ate the bread from off the altar and rested following a long and grueling battle.

The common sense rule was in effect. Even so, David led by example and his Soldiers followed.

Our Soldiers will follow our example.

The more important our position is, the more important it is for us to execute a good plan.

The time is now to put your plan in place.

#### Worship Opportunities

#### **Fort Stewart**

Catholic Sunday Mass Saturday Mass Weekday Mass	Location Heritage Heritage Victory	<u>Time</u> 9 a.m. 5 p.m. 11:45 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday Protestant Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.
Sunday School	Diamond Elementary	9:30 a.m.
Kids' Church(K to 6th grade)	Across from Dia. Elem.	11:00 a.m.
American Samoan		
Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
Muslim		
Friday Jum'ah	Building 610	12:30 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Building 610	9 a.m.
Lutheran		
Sunday Worship	Marne	9 a.m.

#### **Hunter Army Airfield**

М	ro	ιe	รเ	а	n	τ
						_

Protestant Sunday School	Religious Education Center	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	Chapel	11 a.m.

#### **Catholic**

Sunday Mass	Chapel	9:30 a.m.
CCD	Religious Education Center	11 a.m.